

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3683
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 03845

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PGOV, UNGA, UNSC, IS, US
SUBJECT; US-ISRAELI CONSULTATION ON
MIDDLE EAST ISSUES AT THE 33D UNGA

SUMMARY:

1. IN SEPTEMBER 27 DISCUSSION, LEONARD URGED ISRAELIS
IN AFTERMATH OF CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS TO HAVE DAYAN'S
PLENARY SPEECH TAKE UPBEAT AND FORWARD LOOKING APPROACH,
INCLUDING TOWARD UN ROLE IN ME ISSUES. HE ALSO URGED
THEM TO CONSIDER MAKING UNILATERAL GESTURES TOWARD WEST
BANKERS AND GAZANS--E.G., FAMILY REUNIONS, IMPROVED BRIDGE
CROSSING PROCEDURES--EVEN BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS TO SET UP
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL COMMENCE. ISRAELI PERMREP CAHANA
SAID WE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO ENCOURAGE UN TO
REHABILITATE ITS IMAGE IN ISRAEL BY TAKING CONSTRUCTIVE,
OPEN MINDED APPROACH TO CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS RATHER THAN
SUPPORTING REJECTIONISTS. END SUMMARY.

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2. LEONARD AND MISOFF HIRSCH MET WITH CAHANA AND LAMDAN
OF ISRAELI UN MISSION TO DISCUSS THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE
CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS FOR MIDDLE EAST ISSUES IN THIS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY. LEONARD FILLED THE ISRAELIS IN ON
SAUNDER'S SEPT 26 BRIEFING FOR THE AFRICAN GROUP AND
OUR ABORTIVE EFFORT TO MEET WITH ARAB PERMREPS (USUN 3806)
AS WELL AS OUR PLANS FOR FURTHER BRIEFINGS. ON BASIS

OF THESE INITIAL CONTACTS, LEONARD SAID, IT ALREADY WAS CLEAR THAT THE MAJOR CONCERNS OF THE ARABS AND THE NON-ALIGNED IN GENERAL WERE (A) THE CHARGE THAT SADAT HAD MADE A SEPARATE DEAL AND (B) THE ROLE OF THE PLO AND THE PALESTINIANS IN NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. WE WERE TAKING THE POSITION THAT THE CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS SET IN MOTION A PROCESS IN WHICH WE HAVE ALL COMMITTED OURSELVES TO RESOLVE THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM INCLUDING THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE, AND HOPED THE ISRAELIS WOULD TAKE THE SAME APPROACH.

3. LEONARD FURTHER SAID THAT THE ARABS WOULD BE ANALYZING ISRAELI STATEMENTS BOTH IN NEW YORK AND ISRAEL AS WELL AS THEIR ACTIONS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IN ASSESSING WHETHER ISRAEL GENUINELY WAS COMMITTED TO THE PEACE PROCESS OR NOT. HE URGED THE ISRAELI MISSION TO ENCOURAGE DAYAN TO ADOPT A POSITIVE AND FORWARD-LOOKING A-PROACH IN HIS OCT 9 PLENARY ADDRESS RATHER THAN GOING BACK OVER THE DISPUTES IN THE UN OF RECENT YEARS. IN ADDITION, ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT REQUIRED BY THE CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS, IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL IF THE ISRAELIS COULD TAKE ANY UNILATERAL MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION OF PALESTINIANS ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA EVEN BEFORE THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL IS SET UP. FOR INSTANCE, ISRAEL COULD REVIEW ITS POLICIES ON REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES AND ALSO CONSIDER THE READMISSION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PALESTINIANS WHO HAVE BEEN EXPELLED FOR POLITICAL REASONS. IT COULD ALSO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT ITS BRIDGE CROSSING PROCEDURES IN ORDER TO REDUCE HARASSMENT AND LENGTHY DELAYS.

4. CAHANA SAID THAT ISRAEL ALREADY WAS GIVING THOUGHT TO HOW TO BUILD ON THE CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS IN THE UN. THE GOI WANTS TO COORDINATE ITS APPROACH WITH US. CAHANA INDICATED HIS EXPECTATION THAT DAYAN'S SPEECH INDEED WILL LOOK TO THE FUTURE IN A POSITIVE SPIRIT (IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT HE HAS NOT SEEN A DRAFT). LEONARD'S SUGGESTIONS REGARDING UNILATERAL GESTURES WERE "FOOD FOR THOUGHT" ALTHOUGH HE CAUTIONED AGAINST EXPECTING QUICK CHANGES IN ISRAELI POLICY ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. HE CITED SECURITY PROBLEMS AS A MAJOR FACTURE IN DELAYS IN THE JORDAN RIVER CROSSINGS.

5. CAHANA THEN PROCEEDED TO PUT FORWARD THE ISRAELI APPROACH TO THE 33RD UNGA. THE CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS, HE NOTED, PROVIDE FOR AN ENHANCED ROLE FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL, ITS PERMANENT MEMBERS AND THE PEACEKEEPING ARM OF THE UN IN THE PEACE PROCESS. IN ORDER FOR THIS TO BE

POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE ISRAELI PUBLIC, IT WAS NECESSARY FOR THE UN, WHICH FOR MANY YEARS HAS BEEN PERCEIVED AS CONSISTENTLY HOSTILE, TO REHABILITATE ITS IMAGE IN ISRAEL. THE WAY FOR THIS TO HAPPEN IS FOR MEMBER STATES TO REFRAIN FROM SUPPORTING THE REJECTIONIST POSITION, AND TO GIVE THE PEACE PROCESS A CHANCE WITHOUT EXPECTING UNREALISTIC INSTANTANEOUS CHANGES FROM ISRAEL. CONTINUING ANTAGONISM TOWARD ISRAEL IN THE ASSEMBLY, ON THE OTHER HAND, WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3684
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 03845

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FOR THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO ASK ISRAELIS TO HAVE
CONFIDENCE IN THE UN IN THE FUTURE.

6. IN REPLY, WE NOTED THAT THE ISRAEL-UN RELATIONSHIP IS SYMBIOTIC AND THAT IT IS UNREALISTIC FOR ISRAEL TO EXPECT ATTITUDES IN NEW YORK TO CHANGE SIGNIFICANTLY AS LONG AS IT REMAINS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. RECOGNIZING THAT THE SITUATION ON THE WEST BANK COULD CHANGE ONLY GRADUALLY, SOME GESTURES SUCH AS OUTLINED ABOVE NONETHELESS COULD BE VERY HELPFUL.

7. CAHANA EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT EGYPT WOULD BE ABLE TO JOIN IN THE EFFORT OF BUILDING SUPPORT FOR CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS AT THE UN AND ENCOURAGING A MORE MODERATE APPROACH BY THE ARABS. WE CAUTIONED CAHANA NOT TO PRESS MEGUID INTO AN UNTENABLE POSITION. EGYPT ALREADY WAS FAR OUT IN FRONT OF THE ARABS IN ENTERING INTO THE

CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS. SADAT NOW HAS TO BE ABLE TO
DEMONSTRATE THAT HE HAS NOT ABANDONES THE PALESTINIANS.
IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT MUCH WOULD HAPPEN DURING THIS
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ASSEMBLY TO START IMPLEMENTING THE WEST BANK-GAZA
PORTIONS OF THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT. FOR THIS REASON,
IT WAS UNREALISTIC TO THINK THAT EGYPT COULD TAKE THE
LEAD HERE IN RESENTING PRESSURES FROM THE REJECTIONISTS.

8. COMMENT: WHILE CAHANA SEEMED SYMPATHETIC TO THE
POINTS WE RAISED, IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE ISRAELI
MISSION HAS LITTLE DIRECT INFLUENCE ON GOI DECISIONS
REGARDING THE ISSUES WE RAISED. IF THE DEPT AGREES,
IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF AMB LEWIS COULD RAISE THESE
POINTS WITH DAYAN AND WEIZMAN BEFORE THE FORMER'S
DEPARTURE FOR NEW YORK. YOUNG

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